MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL: THANK YOU FOR HEARING US TONIGHT.

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK HAS A PROUD AND RADICAL HISTORY!

This is the seat of civil rights activities, of abolitionists, of women and men who spoke fiercely in favor of the Radical Notion of Women Getting the Vote!

We are a Progressive City which EMBRACES CONTROVERSY, Discussion, and Forum!

I'm proud to live in a city in which politicians and judges are keen enough and open enough to give a fair hearing to issues which may be difficult to understand.

If we're READY TO LIVE WITH EQUALITY BETWEEN THE SEXES, then girls and women should have at the very least equal clothing options -- that what is now a PRIVILEGE for PART of the population should be a RIGHT for all.

Let's DARE to place PRINCIPLES BEFORE POLITICAL APPEASEMENT!

Let's pledge to SUPPORT JUST CAUSES -- despite inevitable difficulties of adapting to change -- to see that JUSTICE PREVAILS FOR EVERYONE!

We start RIGHT HERE. We start by LISTENING to each other with an open heart and mind.

Rochester continues to be in the forefront of Women's Rights.. New York State continues to be a leader in education. We are NOT a provincial little town which caters to those who would suppress Controversy and Change!

Women, children, men -- lawmakers, legislators -- ALL OF US BENEFIT FROM EQUALITY BY LAW. EVERYONE suffers when ANY LAW exists which discriminates -- which eliminates options on the basis of age, race, gender -- no matter WHAT its particular manifestation, large or small, apparent or subtle, widespread or local, blatant or difficult to detect.

Rochester, New York can be on the map for being part of the Civilized Segment of the World, in its validation of Every Person, poor or rich, old or young, black or white, female or male.

Topfree Equality shows Rochester ONCE AGAIN to be a leader in recognizing the enormous implications of laws which define actions legal or illegal BY GENDER.

We RIGHT HERE are continuing OUR PROUD HISTORY of the STRUGGLE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS.

6/14/88

First, I'd like to clarify a point that's generated some confusion and concern. We're NOT saying women should take off their shirts. We ARE saying women should have the option to have their shirts off, as do men -- that the law should not restrict choice of dress by gender.

If we make sure that, for example, women have equal access to construction jobs, we're not saying women should become construction workers.

It's NOT the JOB of laws to dictate personal tastes and preferences.

It's NOT the JOB of laws to decide what is erotic.

It's NOT the JOB of laws to enforce modesty on one segment of the population.

We need to move out of a provincialism into a more progressive and reasonable standard in this city and in this state that has shown itself again and again to be a leader in civil rights and in women's rights. We have a PROUD AND RADICAL history! It's here in Upstate New York where abolitionists rallied, here where women and men spoke fiercely in favor of the Radical Notion of Women Getting the Vote!

Let's DARE to place principles before political or personal appeasement!

Let's DARE to support justice even when it means inevitable difficulties in adapting to change.

EVERYONE suffers when ANY law exists which discriminates -- which eliminates options on the basis of age, gender, race -- no matter WHAT its particular manifestation, large or small, widespread or local, blatant or subtle.

This protest is in complete accordance with traditional American values -- freedom, justice, and equality. To expose the HYPOCRISY of inequality, and to expose the DECEIT of this law -- particularly in regard to its justification of bar-room voyeurism and the simultaneous denial of the equal rights of women to dress as we please -- to expose this deceit and hypocrisy is an act of allegiance to our community and our values.

We here in Rochester, New York are continuing our proud struggle for equal rights for women!

KR 6/21/88